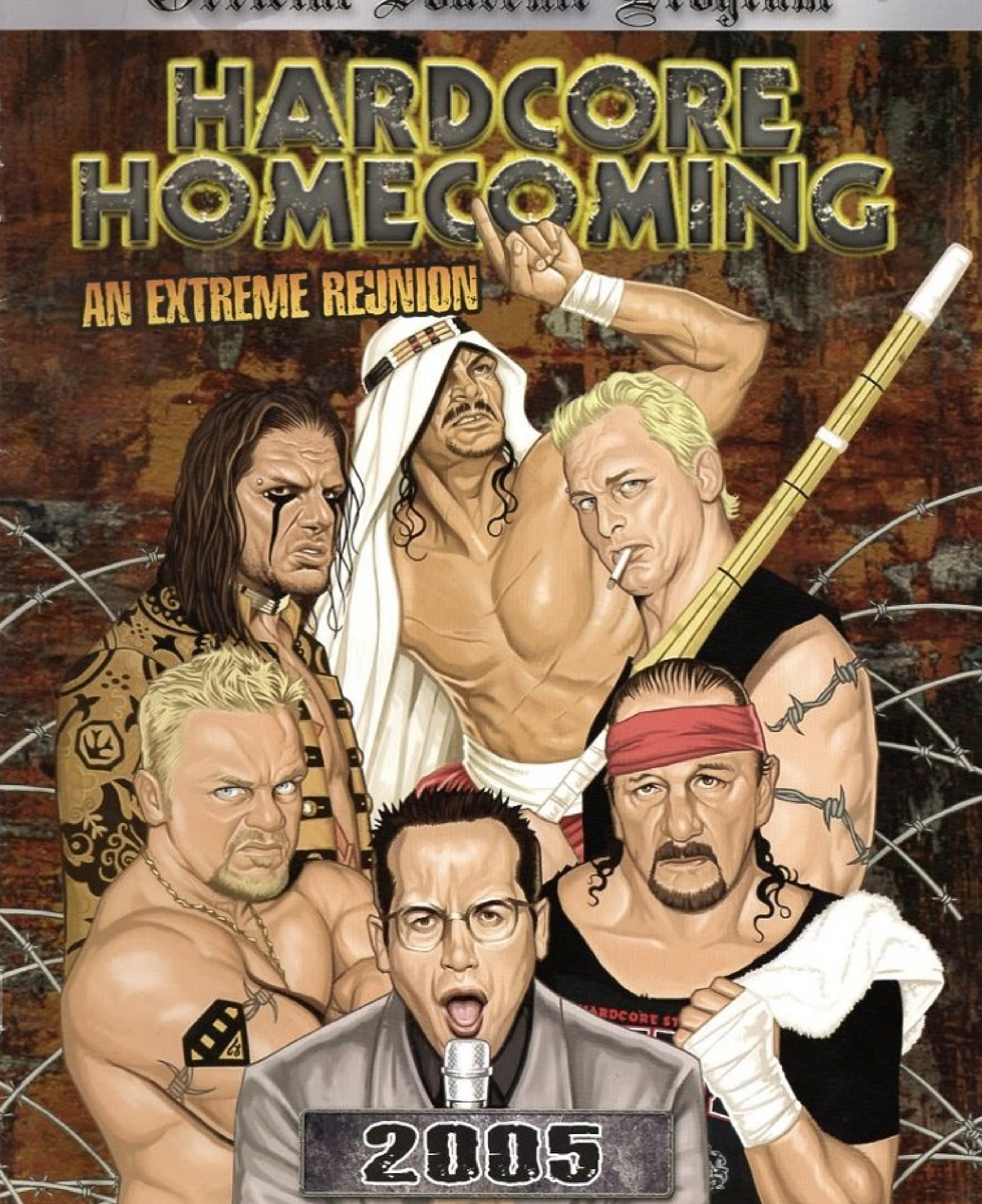
Official Souvenir Program



GREETINGS FROM AMARILLO, TEXAS:

My oh my, how in the hell did we get here? It seems like only yesterday that I stood next to Tod Gordon as his very first TV show was ending. Tod was beaming like a proud father for his new wrestling company and asked me what I thought. "Well, we weren't very good tonight," I remarked. "But you stick with us, we'll get better."

Lord knows, better we got as every major superstar who loved this fine sport of wrestling passed through our doors, from Mick Foley to Sabu to Chris Benoit to Tommy Dreamer and beyond. It was all thanks to you, the wrestling fan. You made every last one of us fall in love with professional wrestling again. You loved and hated us and you inspired us to do things we wouldn't do for any national company for any amount of money, but we did it for you crazy, insane, but wonderful fans... out of love.

I always keep the true fans of wrestling close to my heart, whether I am in Japan, on the road wrestling, or just sitting on the porch back home at the Double Cross Ranch rocking my grandchildren to sleep. Every last one of you touched my heart. You made it possible for me, and those like me who love our sport, to make a living and thrive in this sport. You never forget us, you always appreciate us, and you make the worst day in this business worth living through. You let us be something that is missing from today's wrestling... you let us be extensions of our true characters. You let us be us, and we loved you for bringing out the best of each other.

So, how the hell did we get here? How did we end up on PPV and national television? How did hardcore professional wrestling take over the world? Why is it still remembered so fondly today? Why are we all back together again, with many of us coming from not just across the country, but the world? We're all here because of all of you wonderful people, and I am indebted to all of you for it. I know I speak for all of the performers tonight when I say it truly is an honor to be performing before you tonight, and may the legacy of what we have all accomplished together live on forever.

Thank you and I'll See You In The Ring.

Terry Funk

HARDCORE HOMECOMING
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The Era of Hardcore

A long time ago, in a Bingo Hall far, far away…in South Philadepphia, that is, came a collection of professional wrestlers who weren't cut from the same cloth as your national superstars. They were too violent, they were too small, they were too quiet, they were too quirky, they were too high-flying. They didn't fit into the normal scheme of things. By all accounts, they were all destined to perform on a smaller scale, for little pay and be adored by only the most die-hard connoisseurs of professional wrestling.

Then a funny thing happened on the way to the history books. Hardcore professional wrestling changed the face of the industry. Suddenly, these misfit athletes were now among the more popular and pursued performers of the era. Maneuvers and matches innovated right here were now being absorbed by the mainstream. The business as a whole evolved and changed, becoming a darker, grittier, more emotional professional wrestling.

These athletes broke bones and spilled blood. They cried and they fought and they gave their all, for you, the wrestling fan, and their own love of this unique sport. Tonight, we celebrate their victories and defeats, their championships and their sacrifices. Their greatest highs and their lowest lows. With the good comes the bad, and we remember it all and celebrate it, with respect and with the knowledge that it was all well worth the effort.

On behalf of everyone who ever left their heart and soul in that ring, welcome home…to Hardcore Homecoming, an event that brings you back to the days when you were as much a part of the show as the athletes you paid to see.

Terry Funk

From the Double Cross Ranch in Amarillo, Texas comes this legendary second-generation star, still going strong at nearly 60 years old.

A former World Heavyweight champion, The Funker has evolved over the decades from a take no prisoners up and comer, to a fighting champion, to a veteran that epitomizes everything good about hardcore professional wrestling.

One of the most beloved figures in the history of the sport, Funk is the opposite of most veterans who slow down as they get older; instead Funk gets more extreme and more innovative. When aerial maneuvers began to evolve to the next level in the sport, Funk became the oldest performer to regularly perform a moonsault from the top rope.

Wielding the stiffest right hook in the business, Funk also brandishes a tremendous finishing maneuver in his spinning toehold, a submission that harkens back to the old school of the business.

Having recently released a popular autobiography "More Than Just Hardcore," it would seem that the Funker has achieved all of his dreams in the business, but true students of the game know its only a matter of time before he shocks and awes yet another new generation of fans.

It is only fitting that Terry Funk appear tonight, for without him there would have been no hardcore wrestlers; indeed no hardcore wrestling. He is the patriarch of an entire genre of the sport, but more than that, he is the flagbearer and heart and soul of the grittiest, most emotional side of professional wrestling as a whole.





Sabu

Four letters have never been so deadly. For well over a decade, this native of Bombay, Michigan has been shattering tables and ending careers, carving a legend out of blood, bones, and sheer willpower along the way.

A former World, World Television, and World Tag Team champion, a sound has rarely been uttered from the mouth of Sabu during the span of his storied career. The actions inside (and around) the squared circle scream violence and destruction in a volume beyond the capability of any mortal man.

Scarred from years of international competition in no rope, barbed wire matches, the nephew of the Original Sheik has evolved professional wrestling into an entirely new extreme art form with innovative offense that has changed the shape of the entire sport.

After once punishing himself for losing an important match by moonsaulting through a table, the self-deprecating decision became a calling card for Sabu's achievements. From that pivotal moment on, Sabu has yet to meet a table he couldn't shatter, destroying hapless opponents in the process.

To witness Sabu in competition is akin to the most brutal of boxing matches, the most extreme of car crashes, and the most beautiful of symphonies all at once. With awing flying maneuvers that underscore the brutality of his brawling and the magnitude of his genuis inside the ring, Sabu is one of a kind and truly, the lord of the hardcores.

"The Franchise" Shane Douglas

On August 27, 1994 Shane Douglas held the NWA World Heavyweight championship in the palm of his hand. A championship that was coveted by everyone who ever loved the sport of professional wrestling, from every legend who laced up a pair of boots to every dreamer that never made it past opening match status. Douglas held the golden belt, that trophy of grappling perfection in his hands…and rejected it, throwing it to the mat. The mark of a madman? Perhaps. The mark of a Franchise? Absolutely.

Shane Douglas' wrestling skills are equal only to his boasting of how great he is.

A throwback to the olden days of professional wrestlers with a new twist, Shane Douglas' wrestling skills are equal only to his boasting of how great he is. A multi-time World Heavyweight and Television champion, this Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania native has made his mark as one of the most controversial men ever in the sport.

The leader of every incarnation of The Triple Threat, Douglas is as boisterous as he is dangerously cunning. Douglas doesn't just compete against an opponent physically, he plays a game of mental chess on a level dangerously beyond any other competitor. Douglas seeks out the weakest link of his opponents, mental and physical, and sets out on a quest to emasculate and destroy their will to win.

Worse, Douglas doesn't brag about it, he relishes in every career ruined, every neck broken, every dream shattered. His list of victims reads like an encyclopedia of professional wrestling, once mighty warriors who have fallen to his schemes and his patented Belly-to-Belly suplex.

Ever the opportunist, Douglas has long taken credit for the resurgence and rise of professional wrestling as the hardcore movement evolved and grew in the 1990s. It's all due to him and no one else. If you don't believe him, just ask. "The Franchise" ushered in the era of hardcore wrestling the night he rejected the NWA title; it's all due to him.





Raven's greatest achievements have been written in the blood of his most hated adversaries.

Raven

Like a Phoenix rising from the ashes of oppression, the brooding, disturbed manipulative soul known as Raven continues to haunt both wrestling fans and unfortunate opponents alike. Although a tremendously intelligent and gifted professional wrestler Raven prefers to ignore those strong wrestling skills in favor of an all-out violent style, exorcising the demons within by physically and mentally torturing those who draw his ire inside the ring.

Raven's dark, haunting style is shadowed only by his ability to draw others under his wing, to twist and use them for his own purposes, to make them pawns in his game of mental chess. He may be a former World Heavyweight and World Tag Team champion, but Raven's greatest achievements have been written in the blood of his most hated adversaries. Nothing is beneath this morose slacker, not even pulling innocent children into his path of destruction.

Utilizing his trademark Evenflow DDT to score victory after victory in the ring, championships are secondary to the importance of power in Raven's eyes. Even competitors as talented and legendary as Mick Foley have fallen under his spell from time to time, as Raven spins a web of blood and violence greater than any cult leader before or since.

When a generation of hungry wrestling fans cried out for a hardcore revolution, Raven fed on their energies and used them to raise his arms strong in a crucifix that raged against the machine. Ever wiser and more dangerous, the only factor that increases with Raven's skills is his devious nature. With age comes wisdom, and in Raven's hands, wisdom is deadly.



The Sandman

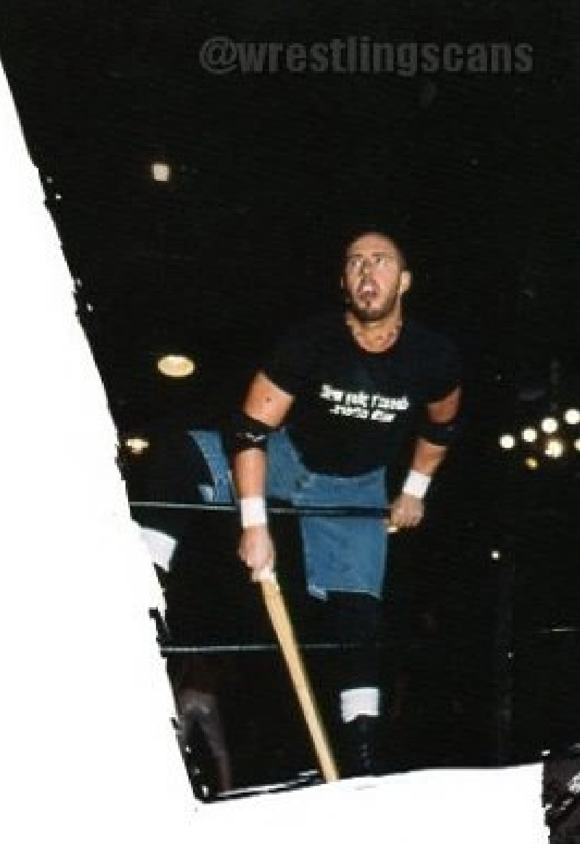
When one thinks of hardcore wrestling, they immediately think of the Hardcore Icon, The Sandman. A three-time former World Heavyweight champion, Sandman is the ultimate anti-hero in the world of professional wrestling, and that's just how he and the fans love it.

Gifted with perhaps the most electrifying entrance in wrestling, The Sandman fires up a cigarette, pops open a cold brew and smashes the can against his forehead until he's bloody. An extremely popular mainstay among fans, Sandman has risen from the streets of Philadelphia to international renown.

Sandman lets it all hang out in the ring, preferring to rely on his primal brawling instincts rather than wrestle. It means nothing for him to crack an opponent with his trusty Singapore cane, suplex a table over their head, or wrap his own body in barbed wire to create a human barbed wire battering ram.

With a fire matched only by his smoking cigarette and the violence in his mind, the Beer Chugging, Cigarette Smoking, Cane Swinging Sandman continues to make hardcore history.

Justin Credible



One of the true impact players of hardcore wrestling, this former World Heavyweight and World Tag Team champion unleashes a mean streak within that is unlike even the most grizzled veterans. Vile, cunning, decadent, and disturbing, Credible stopped at nothing to destroy his competition and rise to the upper echelon of professional wrestling.

Credible's disgusting acts were designed to catapult him to the top of the sport

Whether it was making International headlines by breaking the leg of Japanese legend the Great Sasuke or interrupting sacred ten bell salutes, Credible's disgusting acts were designed to catapult him to the top of the sport but also made him among the most hated performers of the last decade.

Credible is an intense wrestler, utilizing a spinning tombstone, christened "That's Incredible," that has injured opponent after opponent. Having paid his dues the hard way, Credible continues to make life miserable for anyone who dares cross his path.





Francine

"The Queen of Extreme" has come a long way from her roots in Philadelphia, carving a very unique niche by becoming one of the most successful female managers in the history of the sport of kings.

Having managed numerous performers to every championship attainable, Francine is not content with just being a beautiful woman with a brain for business. She makes no bones about getting physically involved in the action and has scored victories over both men and women in the past.

Whether she is managing potential champions or tantalizing fans with her latest outfit (or lack thereof), Francine will continue to be one of the most controversial figures (pun intended) in hardcore wrestling.





Kid Kash

The master of one of the most potent hurrancanranas ever seen in professional wrestling, "the Notorious K-I-D" is a former World Television champion and one of the most outspoken performers ever to grace a professional wrestling ring.

Since his debut in the mid-1990s, Kid Kash has been turning the heads of hardcore fans and fellow competitors alike with his amazing aerial arsenal and his refusal to back down from any challenge. Kash is willing to talk the talk, then back it up physically. Perhaps the only thing bigger then his mouth is the heart he carries when he steps between the ropes.

Holding a tremendously unique bond with the hardcore wrestling fan base, Kash has publicly stated his love and respect for those fans and tonight will truly a homecoming for him as he's unleashed to the full extremes of his potential.

Kash has publicly stated his love and respect for those fans

Jerry Lynn

For years this Minneapolis native was renowned as the wrestling world's undiscovered superstar by hardcore fans who were lucky enough to see him ply his trade in Minnesota or Japan. Lynn was finally was given the chance to go beyond his limitations and take his game to a new level. Immediately, he was christened "The New Fn' Show" by wrestling fans across the globe, with his matches becoming the stuff of hardcore legend.

A pure scientific genius when it comes to the mat, Lynn is likewise a prodigy of aerial combat, known for putting it all on the line to attain victory. His fluid ring skills and endless work ethic have allowed him to achieve the top prize in professional wrestling, capturing the World Heavyweight championship in a hard-fought victory over longtime rival Justin Credible in Lynn's home State of Minnesota in October 2000.

Lynn is likewise a prodigy of aerial combat, known putting it all on the line to attain victory

Returning to the ring after an extended absence due to a rotator cuff injury, Lynn is leaping back into the thick of things against the best competition there is, putting it balls to the wall, full metal to the pedal, with all out extreme warfare. The New Fn' Show is back!

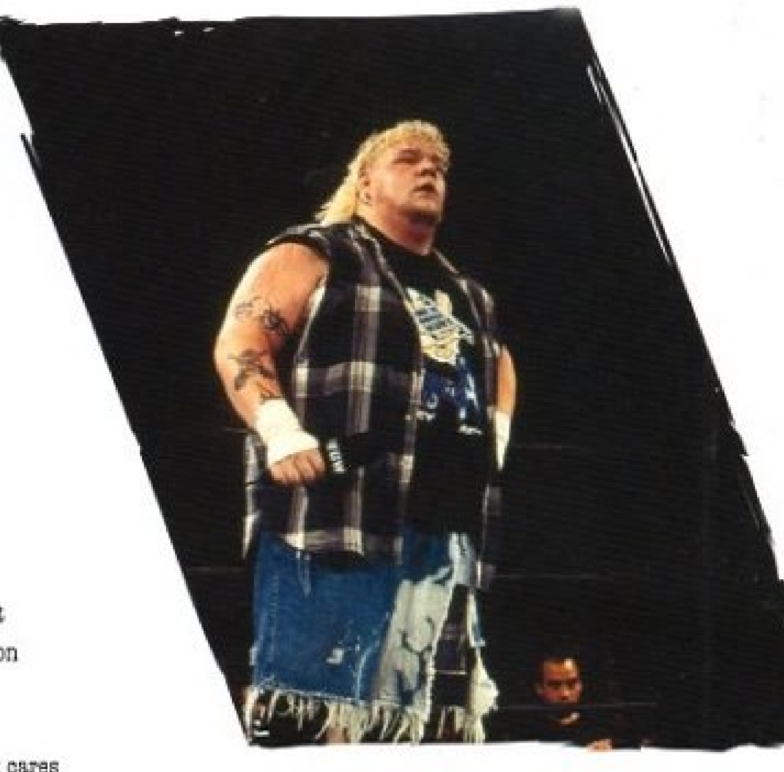


New Jack

Wherever New Jack goes, controversy follows. You might think it's an understatement, but if you do, you obviously haven't followed the career of the one and only "Original Gangsta" of professional wrestling.

Often imitated but never duplicated, New Jack is an extreme original, one of the most popular, outspoken, and controversial wrestlers of the modern era, all at the same time.

His unique brand of violence inside the ring never changes. A consummate brawler, New Jack creates his own personal art form out of destroying an opponent. Entering the ring with a trash can full of weapons, the former World Tag Team champion will do whatever it takes to get the job done, even if it means he's being indicted by the time the match is over!



Fearless, New Jack will ascend to the highest point of the arena, often the balcony, and dive off, from heights sometimes as great as 20 feet high. Suicidal? No, he just wants to put an exclamation point on the beatdown of his victims.

Using his "187" diving chair to finish off his foes, New Jack cares less about championships and more about dominance. Profiled in wrestling documentary "Beyond the Mat", what you see is what you get with New Jack – pure, unadulterated extreme violence. New Jack is guilty…guilty of being as hardcore as they come.



Axl Rotten

Axl Rotten personifies hardcore wrestling well beyond the point of sanity. Take a deep look at the scars imbedded in his arms. Don't turn away from them, look deep and analyze. Each winding road of pain tells its own hardcore tale - a glorious and bloody journey of respect, hatred, and victory.



Axl's legendary feud with younger brother Ian led the term "blood brothers" to a whole new dimension as the sibling rivalry between them stained their family crimson. A whole new new level of violence was reached during that groundbreaking series of bouts setting the bar for a more gritty, hardcore future for professional wrestling.

From bloody barbed wire bat matches to cringe-inducing thumbtack filled rings, Axl Rotten has battled through it all to emerge victorious and he hasn't stopped brawling yet.





Danny Doring & Roadkill

They may be one of the strangest pairings in professional wrestling, but these former World Tag Team champions know how to get the job done in the ring. After all, they were trained in the legendary House of Hardcore wrestling school in Long Island, New York by none other than former World champion Heavyweight champion Taz.

With his arrogant behavior and cocky "Dastardly strut," Danny Doring is a former college football standout who's impressive offense is matched only by his braggadocios behavior. Roadkill, dubbed "The Angry Amish Chicken Plucker" is one of the more unusual sites to behold in professional wrestling. Competing while wearing full Amish garb, this 300 pounder will walk along the ropes with perfect balance, before delivering his devastating top rope splash.

While Doring will loudly publicly proclaim the greatness of the team, Roadkill is a man of few words (OK, one word), "Chickens!" In the ends, these two opposites have attracted success.

Hardcore fans have watched this talented tag team mature from nervous rookies to full-fledged veterans of the squared circle, ever improving and ever evolving.



The Blue Meanie

The celebrated master of the Meaniesault, the one and only Blue Meanie is well known for interjecting a little humor into the dark and violent universe known as hardcore professional wrestling. Whether it be one of his hysterical imitations, his one-time role as Raven's lackey, or his patented dance moves, The Meanie has evolved one of the most colorful and likeable performers to step foot inside the ring, and tonight will be no exception.

Blue Meanie is well known for interjecting a little humor

The Eliminators

Who is the greatest hardcore tag team in the history of professional wrestling? There are a number of tandems that can make quite a case for themselves, but the legend of the Eliminators, Perry Saturn and John Kronus continues to live on even today.

Having battled their way out of the Combat Zone in Boston, Massachusetts, these tag team specialists competed with an amazingly unique style of stereo offense and high flying maneuvers meshed with tremendous martial arts abilities.

The crowning achievement of that offense was Total Elimination, a doubleteam roundhouse/sweeping kick combination that brought Saturn and Kronus the World Tag Team championships on several occasions.

Reunited for the first time since 1997, The Eliminators are here to stake their claim and prove to the world and themselves that they are, forever more, the greatest partnership ever to exist in hardcore professional wrestling.

Gary Wolfe

What would you give for your passion? For your dreams? For the goals that you have set for in your life? Would you give of your body? Your soul? Your way of life? Your very being? For Pitbull Gary Wolfe, he gave up six months of his life after breaking his neck inside the squared circle, living with a halo screwed into his skull, hoping to wake up from the nightmare, dreaming of revenge. In the end, Wolfe shocked doctors and fans, returning at the top of his game as one half of the Mad Dogs of War, The Pitbulls.

Former World Tag Team champions who each individually held the World Television championship, Gary Wolfe and Anthony Durante searched the world in search of a good fight. Internationally renowned, The Pitbulls were never more at home then they were brawling into the streets of South Philadelphia.

Bloody brawls with The Bad Breed, The Public Enemy, and so many others became the stuff of legend. Durante's ability to absorb punishment made him one of the most feared competitors in hardcore wrestling while Wolfe's martial arts made him an equally fearsome combatant. Extremely popular, the Pitbulls' reign of terror was matched by only the most violent of tag teams.

Although Anthony Durante passed away in September 2003, Gary Wolfe still maintains the Pitbull name in his memory. Tonight, Gary Wolfe steps back into the combat zone, looking for a good fight, one more brawl, one more chance to shock the world of professional wrestling.



Johnny Grunge
The Public Enemy

Tonight at Hardcore Homecoming, the blue collar South Philadelphia brawler Johnny Grunge is in the house, representing his former World Tag Team championship team, The Public Enemy.

When it came to a good time, hardcore wrestling fans knew that no matter what type of event they were standing witness to, an appearance by Flyboy Rocco Rock and Johnny Grunge - The Public Enemy - usually meant two things: one hell of a fight and an invitation for everyone in attendance to hit the ring for a special "House Party."



Two South Philly brawlers who were "more afraid of living then dying."

The legend of Public Enemy has grown with time: two South Philly brawlers who were "more afraid of living then dying." Two rugged fighters who made it all the way from the streets to World Tag Team championships. The bloody brawls that rocked the walls of Viking Hall, the tables decimated, steel chairs raining into the ring. The hilarious interaction between the two partners was unique: fun loving one moment, PE could be lost in bloodlust the next. Blue collar and rugged, The Public Enemy were South Philadelphia's hometown tag team.

Sadly, Teddy "Rocco Rock" Petty passed away in 2002, breaking the hearts of hardcore fans everywhere. To this day, Rock is forever remembered with a banner that hangs in the building that launched him to stardom.

Joey Styles



"Ohhhh Myyyy Goddddddddd!!!!!!!"

With one simple phrase, Joey Styles had a catchphrase before catchphrases were all the rage in professional wrestling, presiding over the most insane and innovative professional wrestling ever seen on the North American continent.

The first man to ever call a live professional wrestling Pay-Per-View event solo, Styles has won countless awards for his unique on-air style, striving for perfection with his sharp wit, endless research on competitors and their strategy, insightful commentary and biting sarcasm.

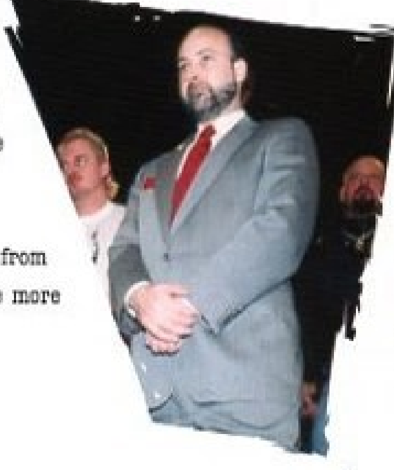
Somehow maintaining his sanity and dignity as chaos rains and the heavens falls

Somehow maintaining his sanity and dignity as chaos rains and the heavens falls, Joey Styles is the voice of Hardcore Homecoming....and there couldn't be a more fitting person for the job at hand.

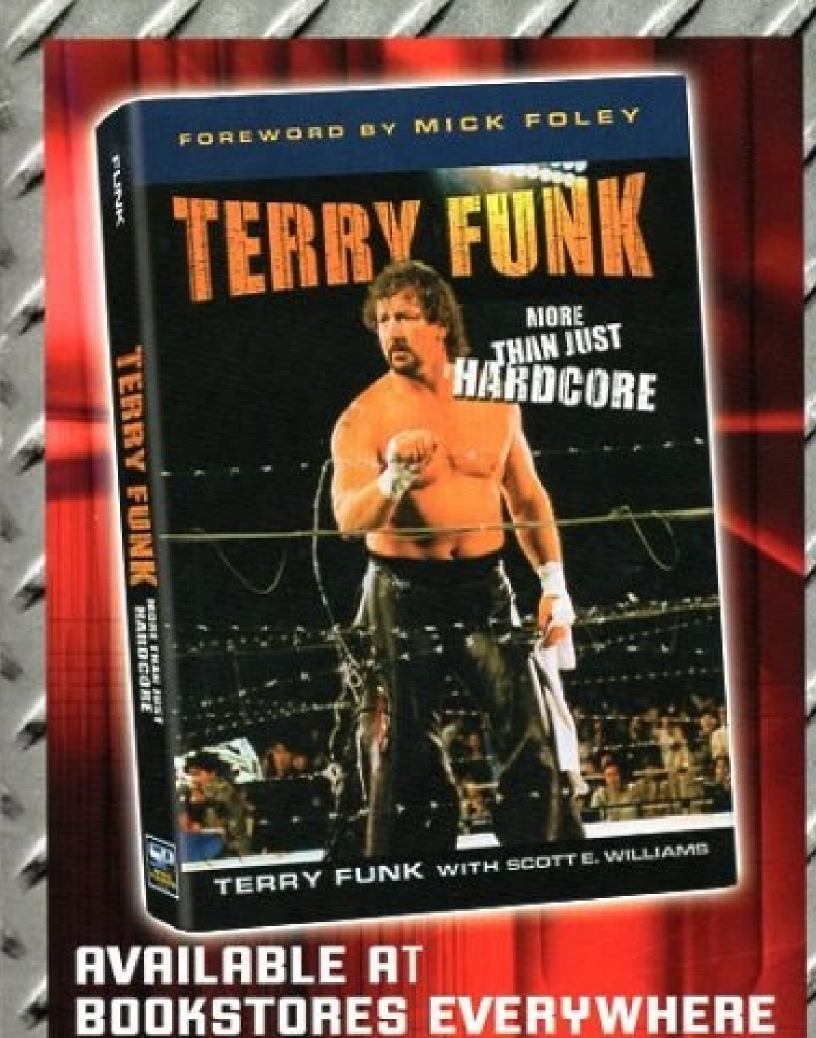
Tod Gordon

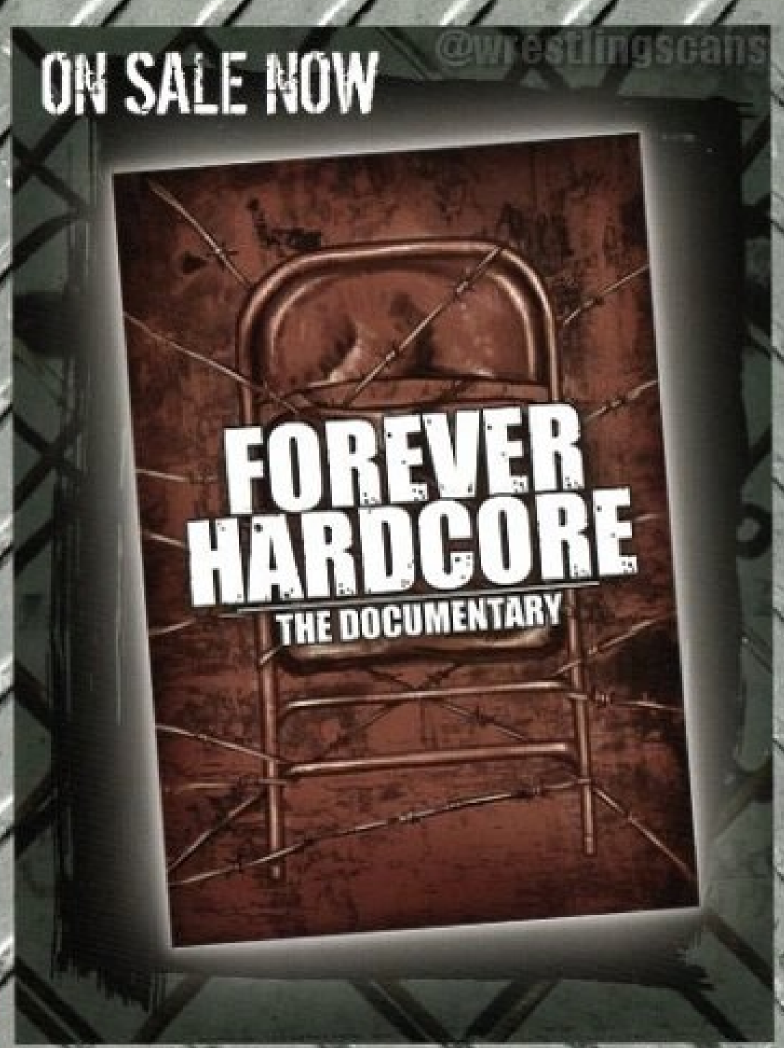
Who in their right mind wakes up one day and decides to change the course of professional wrestling history? Well, Tod Gordon did just that the day he decided to form Eastern Championship Wrestling, a fledgling wrestling promotion that went on to evolve and landscape the entire face of the sport of professional wrestling. The result? The most jaded, cynical hardcore fans chanting "Tod is God" in appreciation for all he did to legitimize and revolutionize their beloved sport.

Holding the post of Commissioner for years, Gordon was at the epicenter of some of the most emotional and groundbreaking changes in the business. When those changes were threatened by outside forces, Gordon proved he was as willing to bleed for his beliefs as he was to state them, entering the ring when necessary.



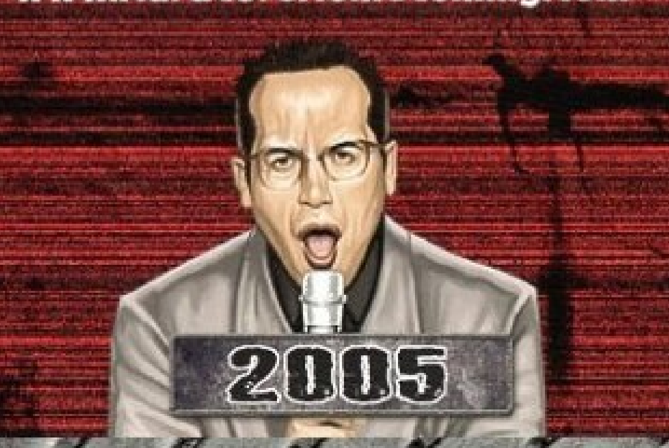
Having given the "big break" to countless individuals who have gone from hopeful unknowns to international superstars, there is perhaps no one more fitting than Tod Gordon to appear at Hardcore Homecoming.


FOREWORD BY MICK FOLEY
TERRY FUNK
MORE THAN JUST HARDCORE
TERRY FUNK WITH SCOTT E. WILLIAMS
AVAILABLE AT
BOOKSTORES EVERYWHERE


ON SALE NOW
FOREVER
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THE DOCUMENTARY


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HOMECOMING
AN EXTREME REUNION
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SOON!
Joey Styles
June 10, 2005 Philadelphia, PA
BIG VISION ENTERTAINMENT
THE NEW LEADER IN SPORTS
ENTERTAINMENT VIDEO


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2005



Forever Hardcore

Though they can no longer perform before our very eyes, their memories will live on forever and their dedication to both the locker room and the fans have garuered them the status of being truly Forever Hardcore.

Chris Candido
Big Dick Dudley
Bobby Duncum, Jr.
Eddie Gilbert
Terry Gordy
Road Warrior Hawk
Brian Pillman
Pitbull 1 - Anthony
Flyboy Rocco Rock
The Sheik
Louie Spicoli

Gone But Never Forgotten
"Forever Hardcore"

Autographs

